



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

HOGSETT ANNOUNCES SENTENCE OF 4 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS FOR MAN WHO PROVIDED GUN USED TO KILL OFFICER BRENT LONG

Three defendants sentenced today for roles in killing, more scheduled for coming weeks

PRESS RELEASE

TERRE HAUTE – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today that Scott Griffy, age 41, was sentenced to 57 months (4 years, 9 months) in federal prison by District Judge William T. Lawrence. This follows Griffy's guilty plea to charges of illegally selling the firearm used by Shaun Seeley in the killing of Terre Haute Police Officer Brent Long on July 11 of last year.

"Ten months ago, seven people who directly contributed to the murder of one of Terre Haute's beloved police officers walked the streets of this city without fear of punishment," Hogsett said. "Today, after tireless investigative work, these sentencing hearings can begin to close this tragic chapter in Terre Haute's law enforcement history."

On July 11, 2011, Officer Brent Long and his K-9 partner, Shadow, entered a Terre Haute residence while serving a warrant on Shaun Seeley for a felony probation violation. Gunfire was heard outside the residence, and after law enforcement officers entered the house, Officer Long was recovered and Seeley, dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound, was identified. Officer Long passed away as a result of his injuries.

After discovering that state law did not provide an effective path of prosecution against those involved in the killing, the U.S. Attorney's Office assisted with the opening of a federal investigation into Officer Long's death. Led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), this effort resulted in last year's indictment of seven Terre Haute residents.

"These prosecutions should serve as a powerful warning as to how seriously federal criminal justice takes the protection of our law enforcement officers and the safety of our

neighborhoods,” Hogsett added. “As Mr. Griffy has learned, if you assist the ‘worst of the worst’ – if you lie or provide help in any way to these criminals – you are going to face the full force of this office.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthias D. Onderak, who prosecuted the case for the government, five individuals, Heather Elkins, 23, Charles Elkins, 24, Roberta Utterback, 52, Jenny Torres, 23, and Jesse Padgett, 21, have pled guilty to making a material false statement to law enforcement in relation to the events of that day. Scott Griffy has pled guilty to charges in connection with their alleged illegal possession and sale of the weapon used in the shooting.

Hogsett announced that at separate sentencing hearings this morning, Heather Elkins was sentenced to 12 months in prison, as well as two years of supervised release, for her role in the shooting. Roberta Utterback was sentenced to 21 months (1 year, 9 months) in prison, as well as two years of supervised release. Griffy was sentenced to 57 months, (4 years, 9 months) in prison this afternoon for having illegally sold the firearm used in the shooting to Shaun Seeley, a convicted felon. Griffy also faced charges for having illegally possessed the firearm as a convicted felon.

###

Griffy.20120502.wpd